

# **Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Date: March 18, 2015**

**Time: 3:00 pm -5:00 pm**

**Location: Miriam Hospital**

*“Making strides to address health equity and the elimination of health disparities in Rhode Island”*

Members and guests present: Members: Chair Tanya Dailey, MD; Co-chair Julie Rawlings; Heriberto Gonzalez; Yvonne Heredia, RN, MS, PhD; Gloria Hincapie; Marcus Mitchell; Michael Nina; Kavita Patel; Deborah Perry; Ulli K. Ryder, PhD.; Reginald Tucker-Seeley, ScD. Ex-Officio: Aleatha Dickerson, MS; Barbara Morin; Chelsea Siefert  
Guests: Michael Fine, MD; Angela Ankoma; Perry Gast; Oliva Kachingwe; Andrew Feldman; Monica Anderson; Zach Keefer.

Members and Ex-Officios unable to attend: Omar Bah; Kenya Fullen; Ana Christina Lindsay; Aradhana Mehta; Azade Perin-Monterroso. Ex- Officios: Lisa D’Agostino; Janice DeFrances; Steven Florio; Bernie Frezza; Philip Less, PhD.

### **I) Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair, Tanya Dailey

### **II) December 17, 2014 Meetings Minutes**

Meeting minutes approved with one correction to absentee list

### **III) Comments on Agenda**

No comments

### **IV) Subcommittee Updates**

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

The Policy Subcommittee used the first quarter of 2015 to meet with various Senate Committees. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the Policy Subcommittee will focus on go to the House Committee meetings. In addition, the Policy Subcommittee is laying out plans for outreach with various organizations and working on internal policies to sure up Commission administration.

#### **Data Subcommittee**

The Data Subcommittee is working with the internship coordinator at Brown to find someone to help the Commission. With regards to the recently released legislative report, the Data Subcommittee is thinking about ways to disseminate the Commission’s findings and to act on the recommendation of improving the disparity surveillance capacity of the state.

#### **Community Engagement Subcommittee**

The Community Engagement Subcommittee plans to develop a strategy to get a sense of the tone around social justice in the state. In addition, they will work on bringing people to the table to have a conversation on health equity.

### **V) Updates from Co-Chairs**

- The Commission will have two news members next meeting and is still looking to add new members.
- Everyone needs to sign up for a subcommittee and attend the meetings along with the regular Commission meetings.

### **VI) Updates From Health**

- HEALTH awarded 11 HEZ grants for a total of \$2.7 million.
- Next month is Minority Health Month. The theme is “The Heckman Report; 30 Years of Health Disparities.” Members should let OMH know of any events to be added to the Minority Health Calendar.
- OMH released another round of mini-grants.
- The Minority Health fact sheets will be released in April as part of Minority Health month.
- TurnUp RI Youth Summit will take place April 21-22 at Times<sup>2</sup> STEM Academy.
- The Health Equity Summit will take place May 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Commission will be a partner for the event.
- The new Director of Health is Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, who taught at Brown Medical School, served in the Divisions of Pediatric and Adult Infectious Disease at the affiliated hospitals in Rhode Island, and consulted for IDE at HEALTH.

#### **VII) Health Equity Summit**

- Hand out a letter of interest for the Commission at the Summit
- Summit organizers have asked the Commission to provide speakers for two sessions:
  - Healthcare systems
  - Health in All Policies Wrap-Up
- The Commission needs to come up with specific language for the Summit.

#### **VIII) Global Recommendations**

- Co-chairs have created different action steps for each recommendation. Action steps have been incorporated into Commission work plan.
- Plan to meet with legislators on a quarterly basis.
- Plan to ask for funding to help with strategic planning.

#### **IX) Engaging Ex-Officios**

- Plan meeting in a format where Commission presents to an ex-officio information that is relevant for that agency.
- Create a presentation for ex-officios to bring back to their staff.
- Meet with the Governor to create a cabinet level meeting around health equity.

#### **X) SIM Grant**

- State was awarded a large grant aimed at organizing health data that insurance companies collect.
- Opportunity for the Commission to ask to pull specific data.

#### **XI) Action Items**

- Develop language for Health Equity Summit
- Edits to the Commission work plan
- Sign up for a subcommittee